

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 9, 2018

Ms. Cathy Stepp
Region 5 Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ralph Metcalfe Federal Building
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Administrator Stepp:

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Region 5 Administrator. We look forward to working with you on behalf of our constituents.

We write regarding the effort to address the contaminated soil and groundwater present at the former DuPont facility in East Chicago, Indiana. As you are aware, federal, state, and local representatives continue to work together to ensure a beneficial solution is identified in order to remediate the lead and arsenic contamination within this community. We remain encouraged by Administrator Pruitt's focus on Northwest Indiana and look forward to collaborating with the Administrator and yourself to approach other potential partnerships within this industrial area.

The recently proposed Statement of Basis for the DuPont industrial area in East Chicago is an example of such efforts. We welcome the EPA's focus on cleaning this site, exemplified by the proposed Statement of Basis. Members of the community, however, raised concerns to our attention in response to the public comment timeframe and their limited access to supplemental materials relating to the Statement of Basis.


As the EPA works to develop and implement this plan, we urge you to continue to coordinate and communicate with interested stakeholders, local officials, and members of the East Chicago community. To that end, we respectfully request that the EPA consider the East Chicago Calumet Coalition Community Advisory Group's request to extend the deadline for the public comment period to allow for the opportunity to review the proposed Statement of Basis and submit detailed comments.

Thank you for your continued support to address legacy issues throughout Northwest Indiana. We look forward to working with you this year.

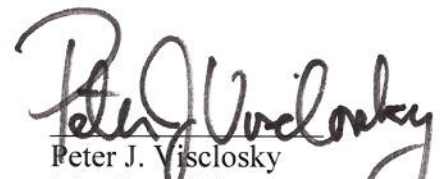
Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress